
California Vital Statistics Data

General Description

California Vital Statistics data files are compiled from the information reported on birth, death, and fetal death certificates, including detailed demographic information related to the infant, mother, and father (for births and fetal deaths) or decedent (for deaths), as well as medical data related to the vital event. The data are hosted by the California Department of Public Health.

Data Collection

The data include live birth or death certificates, as well as calculated prenatal and perinatal mortality. Data are collected on an ongoing basis. Electronic data are available from 1986 to the present.

Data Coverage

Data is collected from throughout California. The data may be presented at different geographic levels, such as nation, state, county, city health department, and/or ZIP code.

Accessibility

Individual data are presented in a variety of aggregated forms, such as counts, rates, ratios, and/or percent distributions. Likewise, the data may also be presented for specific time periods (e.g., annual, multi-year trends). Data files are released in a variety of versions, with and without personal identifiers, in order to provide maximum protection to the confidentiality of the individuals named on the certificates. Unless there is a specific need for personal identifiers, non-confidential data files without personal identifiers should be utilized.

Birth, death, and fetal death certificates are available to individuals, family members, researchers, and government agencies. Users of vital statistics files for research purposes must obtain approvals from the California Health and Human Services Agency's Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects (CPHS) and/or the California Department of Public Health Vital Statistics Advisory Committee (VSAC) in order to use birth, fetal death, or death files for research purposes. Once the files are obtained, users must follow strict guidelines to protect the confidentiality of the data.

Data Link

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/data/dataresources/requests/Pages/VitalStatisticsBirthDeathFetalDeathMarriageData.aspx>

Contact

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